

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 9-17 and 23-32 are pending.

Claims 1-8 are canceled herein.

Claims 18-22 were previously canceled.

Claims 13 and 25 are amended.

Claims 26-32 are newly added.

1-8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for protecting and retaining a wire, the apparatus comprising:

a first foot portion having at least one aperture therethrough;

a second foot portion having at least two apertures therethrough;

an interconnecting portion connecting the first foot portion to the second foot portion wherein the first foot portion, the second foot portion and the interconnecting portion form a passage beneath the interconnecting portion and between the first foot portion and the second foot portion adapted to receive the wire and retain the wire between the interconnecting portion and a mounting structure;

at least three apertures through the interconnecting portion substantially axially parallel to and aligned with the apertures of the first and second foot portions; and

at least one fastener adapted to mount the apparatus to the mounting structure, wherein the apparatus is adapted to prevent the at least one fastener from abutting the wire.

--- (AF) CLAIM AMENDMENT  
ENTERED BY EXAMINER 6/8/06